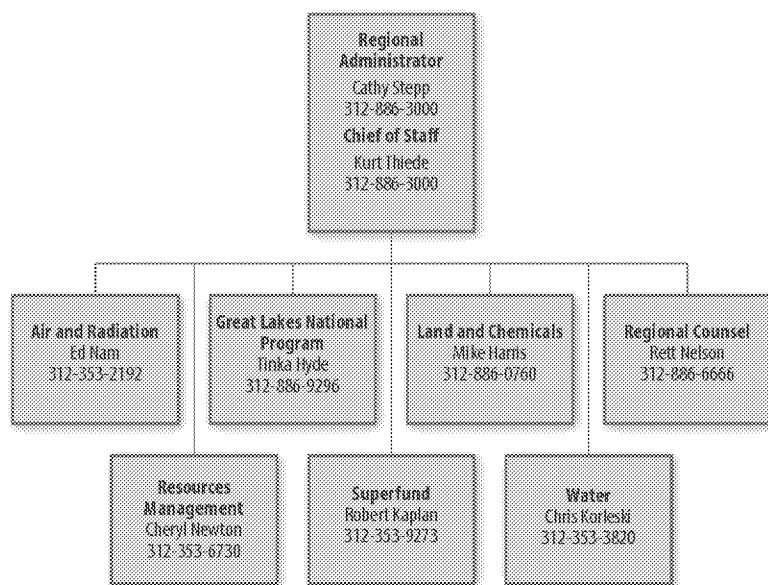


# About Region 5



Cathy Stepp serves as the Regional Administrator for EPA Region 5. Her responsibilities include overseeing environmental protection efforts in the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, as well as 35 federally recognized tribal governments. One of her roles is manager of EPA Great Lakes National Program, in which she leads restoration and protection of the largest freshwater system in the world. Before joining Region 5, she was principal deputy regional administrator for EPA Region 7.

Ms. Stepp served as the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from 2011 to 2017. As state cabinet secretary, she led the third largest state agency with about 4,000 employees and was responsible for state enforcement and protection of wildlife, fisheries, state parks, trails, forests and environmental permitting.

Ms. Stepp also served as a Wisconsin state senator from 2003 to 2007, where she represented nearly 160,000 constituents and authored and advanced legislation on regulatory reform, job creation and other issues. Prior to entering public service, Ms. Stepp owned a small business, a home-building company.

*Here in Region 5, we consider ourselves the “Water Region,” the “Cleanup Region,” and the national transportation and energy hub. At one point in time, Region 5 was known as the “rust belt” because of the region’s history of heavy manufacturing. Today, much of our work aims to clean up the historic industrial pollution left behind. Our work covers six states, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Fifty-two million people live here, which is about 16 percent of the U.S. population. The Greater Chicago-Milwaukee-Northwest Indiana metropolitan area is the third largest in the country and its GDP ranks third, following New York and Los Angeles. We have 35 federally recognized tribes that also call Region 5 home, the fourth largest number in the country.*

## Region 5 by the numbers

### The “Water Region”

America’s “inland seas,” the Great Lakes, dominate the region’s culture, economy and environment. The Lakes are the largest surface freshwater system on Earth. Only the polar ice caps contain more fresh water. The Great Lakes are the crown jewel of a region that is awash in water. Unlike some areas of the country, water is not a limiting resource in the Midwest. The region contains thousands of streams, rivers and lakes that nurture their local communities. The abundant rain and snow provide the basis for one of the planet’s most productive granaries. Here are some more numbers illustrating the influence of the Great Lakes:

- ♦ 84 percent of North America’s surface fresh water;
- ♦ about 21 percent of the world’s supply of surface fresh water;
- ♦ Drinking water to roughly 40 million people.

## A National Transportation/Energy Hub

All roads lead to Region 5. That may be hyperbole, but not by much. A look at a map of major highways, railroads, airline routes and pipelines shows the region is a dense web of infrastructure. Ever since Abraham Lincoln and his visionary friends began advocating for transportation improvements in the 1840s, Chicago has been the most important railroad center in North America. More lines of track radiate in more directions from Chicago than from any other city. Airline development also took off in the Midwest. Chicago O'Hare International Airport is one of the busiest in the world by the number of takeoffs and landings and passenger boardings. The region's central geography also encouraged pipeline construction, which could follow railroad and highway right-of-ways. The web of railroads and pipelines fostered the growth of Region 5's emergency response capabilities.

### Railroads

- ♦ All seven "major freight" U.S. railroad lines run through Region 5 and many transport hazardous materials.
- ♦ Five to seven oil trains pass through Minnesota every day, each carrying about 3.3 million gallons of crude oil.
- ♦ Region 5 has most responses to train derailments, about four train derailments a year.

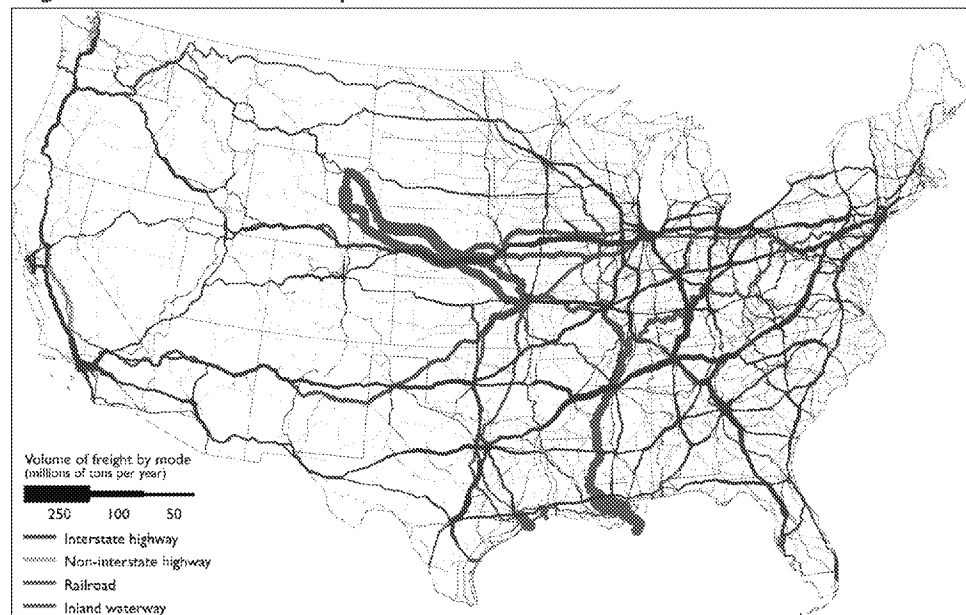
### Pipelines/Oil Spills

- ♦ Dozens of major pipelines crisscross through Region 5. On average, the region responds to 30-40 oil spills every year.
- ♦ The 840,000+ gallon 2010 Enbridge pipeline spill in Marshall, Mich., was the largest oil spill to a U.S. inland waterway

## The "Cleanup Region"

The convergence of raw materials such as coal and iron ore with railroads, the Great Lakes and massive immigration made the American heartland an industrial powerhouse. Despite rapid deindustrialization following WW II, the Midwest still makes a lot of things. Considering its industrial past, present and future, it's not surprising Region 5 contains the most Superfund sites in the country and is tops in removal cleanups. Industrial pollutants not only contaminated the land but also settled in the sediment of rivers and lakes.

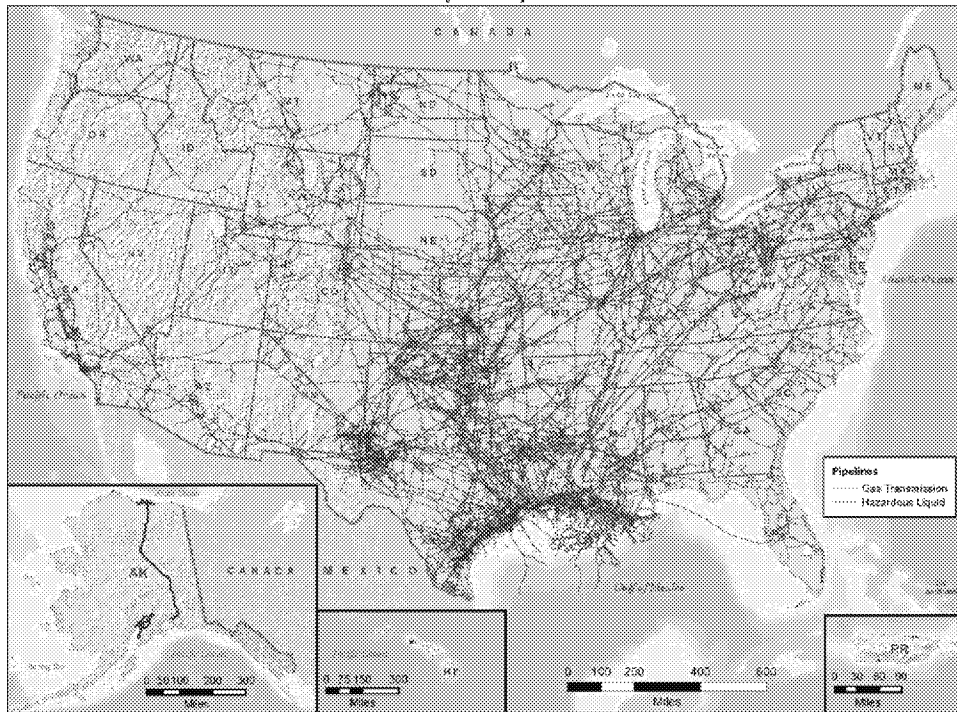
### *Region 5 is a national transportation hub*



*Every year hundreds of millions of tons of freight -- worth trillions of dollars -- move across the rails, roads and waters of the Region.*

*About Region 5*

## Gas Transmission and Hazardous Liquid Pipelines in the United States



*Dozens of major pipelines crisscross through Region 5. On average, the region responds to 30-40 oil spill every year.*

- ♦ Region 5 has the most Superfund sites in the country, 365, or almost 20 percent of the national total.
- ♦ Since 2010 Region 5 has been the lead region in brownfield property assessments, 34 percent of the national total.
- ♦ Region 5 has been a leading region in brownfield cleanups with 19 percent of the national total.
- ♦ Since 2002, Region 5 has prepared more than 10,000 acres for reuse, 15 percent of the national total.
- ♦ Region 5 has directed the dredging and capping of 4 billion cubic yards of contaminated sediment since 2013.